Julius Genachowski, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

May 26, 2011

WT 11-65: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

As our economy recovers, technology start-ups will help lead the way in creating new jobs and reviving struggling communities. To get off the ground, these growing companies rely on initial financial backing from a small community of venture capital firms. According to the National Venture Capital Association, each year, the venture capital community generates roughly \$3 trillion in revenue, puts more than 12 million people to work, and accounts for more than one-fifth of the total economy. From the mainframe to the PC to the microchip and the Internet, venture capitalists are an integral part of an economic model that has proven to be successful time and time again.

In our estimation, one of the greatest opportunities for future economic growth involves wireless broadband and mobile devices. The rise of smartphones like the iPhone and Android devices has created a powerful new computing platform on which many start-ups are being built. This growth opportunity faces a challenge, however, with the looming prospect of "spectrum exhaust": overcrowded networks will be unable to provide the bandwidth required for the exciting new applications and other innovative ideas that are now being developed by tomorrow's successful companies.

We encourage policymakers to continue their efforts to free up the spectrum necessary to enable all network providers to construct next-generation broadband networks. In AT&T's and T-Mobile's merger applications, however, the companies highlight the near-term difficulties that carriers currently face: market-specific capacity issues coupled with longer-term spectrum needs that will delay or prevent the deployment of these next-generation wireless broadband networks. By combining the physical infrastructure and spectrum positions of the two companies, the merged entity is targeting deployment of a 4G LTE broadband infrastructure to more than 97% of the United States population in a faster timeframe than either firm could achieve on its own. This commitment would help millions of Americans throughout the United States gain access to a network that can support innovative technologies, applications and devices. The technology start-ups we work with will be a key beneficiary of this more efficient

and robust national wireless network. We are in favor of the Commission approving this transaction.

Thank you for your consideration.

Matthew J. Murphy, Partner, Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers

CC:

Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker

Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

**Commissioner Michael Copps** 

**Commissioner Robert McDowell**